

DEDICATED TO OUR COMMUNITY, OUR PROFESSION AND EACH OTHER

Spring 2013



THE RESPONDER

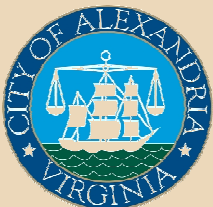
Remembering Josh

| | |
|--------------------------------------|----|
| Remembering Josh | 1 |
| Fire News | 2 |
| EMS News | 3 |
| Community Engagement | 4 |
| Training News | 5 |
| Fire Prevention and Life Safety News | 6 |
| Administration and Logistics News | 7 |
| Awards | 10 |
| Hot Shots | 11 |
| Stats | 12 |

Alexandria Fire Department
900 Second Street
Alexandria, VA 22314
703.746.5200

This newsletter is written and compiled by the Alexandria Fire Department's Community Services Unit

On the web!
www.alexandriava.gov/fire



It is hard to believe that a year has passed since the Department lost Paramedic Joshua Weissman during a response to a vehicle fire on the evening of February 8, 2012. Over the course of the past year numerous organizations and individuals have recognized Weissman for his contributions to the City, the Department and the community he served. Therefore on the anniversary of his death, it seemed fitting that the Department honor him once more with a lasting

symbol of his dedication to educating Department members.

On February 8, 2013 City officials, elected officials, members of the public and public safety members from Alexandria and its surrounding jurisdictions gathered at the Alexandria Fire Department's Professional Development Center to remember Joshua A. Weissman. The gathering occurred in the two class

See REMEMBERING, Page 8, Col. 1.

Fire News

At the beginning of January the Department kicked off the new year by establishing seven operational objectives to be completed by the end of 2013. Fire and EMS personnel worked together to sort through numerous proposals until they decided on the final seven objectives. The seven objectives for 2013 are:

Class A Foam Training - The Department will engage all firefighters in a comprehensive training program in order to ensure all staff are proficient in the specialized skills associated with the use of Class A foam in firefighting operations.

Station Management Update—Review and revise all fire station management plans. Station management plans were drafted several years ago which guide the day to day operations of each station as well as addresses specific community needs. As the City continues to grow and change the plans are now due for an update to reflect the current state of the City.

Full Implementation of the Field Training Officer Program—Started in 2012, the Field Training Officer program has been evolving over the past several months. One Lieutenant was tasked with establishing the foundation for the program. Two more Lieutenants are now assigned to complete the remaining tasks in order to bring the program into the field. Once all preliminary tasks are completed, the Lieutenants will be assigned to each of the shifts where the program will be fully implemented.

Completion of the Pre-Emergency Analysis (PEA) Program—Planning before the emergency starts is one of the fundamental steps to a successful incident. The PEA program utilizes station personnel who visit each commercial and multi-family property in their territory. During each site visit they obtain emergency contact information, become familiar with the building's layout and associated hazards, and transfer all that data into an easily retrievable format for use during emergency responses.

Completion of the Map Book Project—In this

digital age it may seem old fashioned to have a map book. However, the map book in the fire service contains a lot of information that GPS doesn't provide. Such details include the location of building entrances, standpipe connection location, hydrant location, and other information critical to apparatus placement for emergency operations. The last update of the Department's map book was many years ago. With a large number of new buildings in the City since the last revision, the book is well overdue for an update.

Implementation of the New Fire Boat—Alexandria's new fire boat is scheduled to arrive sometime in May but that doesn't mean it can be used right away. The boat is equipped with a number of sophisticated electronics packages. In addition, the new boat is much longer and has greater firefighting capability than the Department's current boat, *The Vigilant*. Staff will undergo several months of intense training to ensure that all personnel are fully skilled in utilizing all of the operational capabilities of the new boat.

Full Implementation of EMS Training—The EMS Sym Lab at Station 202 has been in operation for over a year but on a limited basis. To reach the lab's full potential, the Department needs to move forward with a transition of EMS training from a variety of platforms to single point at the Sym lab. Scheduling, staffing and teaching resources will be aligned to bring the Sym Lab up to full operational capacity in 2013 which will enhance EMS training throughout the Department.

Promotions

In March the Department announced the following fire suppression promotions:

Anthony Washington—promoted to Battalion Chief. Assigned to Battalion 212-B

Chad Lallier—promoted to Lieutenant. Assigned Battalion Aide 215-A. 🚒

EMS News

The Emergency Medical Services Section was pretty busy in the first quarter of 2013.

The Pit Crew Pilot Project was deployed on February. The project is being tested by Engine and Medic Company 207 and is designed to improve the delivery of basic and advanced life support treatments to cardiac arrest patients. Under the program, a framework of how personnel are expected to operate during a cardiac arrest is established with each member of the crew having designated duties and responsibilities.

Pit Crew responsibilities are as follows:

Firefighter #1 (ALS Provider)

- Airway Management
- Assist with ALS treatment

Firefighter #2

- Perform CPR
- Assist with Autopulse

Firefighter #3

- Automatic External Defibrillator
- Assist with Autopulse

Fire Officer

- Scene Management
- Patient Extraction
- Family Liaison

Medic #1

- EKG / Defibrillator
- Direct Patient Care

Medic #2

- Intravenous / intraoral access
- Medication administration
- Advanced Airway management

EMS Supervisor

- Scene Management

- Assist with treatment
- Medical Liaison

The program will be monitored and reviewed over the next several months by the EMS Quality Management Committee.

EMT-B in service sessions hit the ground running in March with 2 sessions per day at the EMS Sym Lab at Station 202. All field and administrative staff attended one of the 3 hour sessions. The in service sessions will occur quarterly and cover one of the required topics of instruction for EMT-B recertification. Each unit of instruction includes both a lecture and a practical session. A test at the end of the session evaluates the attendee's performance and



counts towards the final EMT-B exam. The goal of the program is to provide the full required number

of in service hours to each employee over a series of four hour periods; eliminating the need for a week long class every four years. This approach provides minimal impact on in service units and eliminates the need for overtime to back fill positions while staff attend the former week long classes.

Finally, congratulations go out to Medic II Remi Howell who successfully completed his ALS Internship Program and has been authorized to perform as an ALS provider by the Medical Director. 🚑

Community Engagement



The Community Services Unit and the Health and Safety Unit joined forces to attend the Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities Third Annual Safety Conference held on February 14 at the Lee Center.



Health and Safety Officers Doug McDaniel, Troy Gibbs and Wayne Bryant spoke about workplace safety and the Fire Department's Health and Safety program. The Community Services Unit provided information on in home safety and fire prevention tips as well as information of smoke and carbon monoxide alarms.

The day long event filled the Exhibit Hall and First Floor of the Lee Center and was very informative for all City employees.

On February 22, First Responders from Alexan-

dria, Arlington and Fairfax County were invited to the annual First Responders Appreciation Breakfast sponsored by The Fountains at Washington House on Fillmore Avenue. The Fountains put on a breakfast for fire, police and



sheriff representatives as a way of thank them for all they do.

The Fountains is an assisted living facility located in Alexandria near the borders of Arlington and Fairfax Counties. Under the automatic mutual aid agreements between all three jurisdictions, all three departments respond to the facility at various times to either provide medical or fire suppression assistance.

The event was well attended and the staff at the Fountains were pleased that they could say thanks to those that come 24/7/365.

In March, the crew of Engine 203C (Captain James LeCruise and Firefighters Tiffany Matthews and Keith Walker spent several visits with a hearing impaired resident in their first due territory. They conducted a home assessment and then installed a series of hearing impaired smoke alarms and night stand detectors throughout the home. The resident was extremely thankful to the crew for taking the time to make sure their home had sufficient early warning for the hearing impaired occupants in the event of a fire. 🚒

ARHA Drills

During the month of February, the Department had another opportunity to conduct practical training at the remaining Alexandria Redevelopment and Housing Authority (ARHA) properties in the 900 block of North Alfred Street. The two story homes were slated for demolition in March. All shifts as well as members from the surrounding jurisdictions participated in day long drills which focused on



roof ventilation and interior firefighting skills.

The homes, which started being demolished in March, were the last of a five block section that ARHA was redeveloping into single family and multi-family residences. The Department had the opportunity to practice on the structures for the past three years. Lieutenant Mike Dunn coordinated the Fire Department activities with ARHA and the construction contractor for the past three years.

The vacant properties have provided the Department with a unique opportunity to practice on actual structures in lieu of the Burn Building located at the Professional Development Center. Opportunities like these are few and far between and the Department was very thankful to have these structures available, especially for all the new firefighters, to practice on.

Autism Awareness

Autism Awareness Training was conducted with all personnel in February. The hour and half on-line program provided a back ground on Autism; considerations to take when dealing with Autistic patients in both a fire and medical emergency; and precautions to take prior to encountering an Autistic individual.

Attendance and certification was monitored by the Professional Development Center. All members of the Department (uniformed and civilian) took the on-line training.

King Vision Laryngoscope

Medics participated in King Vision Laryngoscope training in mid-February. King Systems is one of the industry's leading manufacturers and distributors of airway management devices. The King Vision is a portable video laryngoscope designed for indirect laryngoscopy, difficult endotracheal intubations as well as routine intubations. The device combines the best features of traditional laryngoscopes, fiber optic laryngoscopes and new cutting-edge visualization technology to offer medics an immediate and clear view of the vocal cords. This results in a more accurate intubation while minimizing soft tissue manipulation. The King Vision Laryngoscopes were deployed to all Medic Units in March. 🚒



Fire Prevention & Life Safety News

Back on December 21 at approximately 12:56am the Department responded to the 900 block of Gibbon Street for a reported apartment fire. The first 911 calls reported a person setting fires inside an apartment. Arriving firefighters encountered light smoke escaping through the front door of one of the apartments in a garden apartment building. Upon entering the apartment they found evidence of several fires that had been set inside an occupied apartment.

An individual was stopped a short distance from the scene and later charged with setting the fires.

Damage to the apartment unit was estimated at \$15,000. Fortunately there were no reported injuries. One occupant of the apartment was relocated by the property management company to another unit.

Beatrice Thompson, 20, a City resident, was charged with one count of burning or destroying dwelling house while occupied, a Class 4 felony.

New Faces



In January, James Mikell joined the Fire Prevention and Life Safety Section as a Deputy Fire Marshal. James comes to Alexandria with over 30 years of experience with Norfolk Fire-Rescue in Norfolk, Virginia. His last assignment in Norfolk was in the Fire Marshal's Office where he served as a Fire Investigator. James has experience in environmental crimes and fire code enforcement. He also has a Master's Degree in Public Administration from Regent University.

James is assigned to the Fire Marshal C Shift and is known as FM225 on the radio. Welcome to the Department James.

2012 Stats

In 2012 there were a number of increases and decreases in activities / outcomes in the Fire Prevention and Life Safety Section. Proactive inspections were up by 123% while cited violations decreased by 70%. Fire Protection Systems Inspections were down by -1.10%. Test cancellations were also down by 9.77%.

Fire Investigations were up by 8.62%. Hazmat Investigations were up by 146.2%. Arrests were down by 35.7%. The below table outlines more activity comparisons between 2011 and 2012. 🚒

| Inspections | | | |
|--------------------|-------|-------|------------|
| Activity | 2011 | 2012 | Difference |
| Violations | 3,479 | 2,699 | -22.4% |
| Proactive Insp | 4,886 | 6,010 | +123% |
| Complaint Insp. | 414 | 882 | +213% |
| System Insp | 2,721 | 2,691 | -1.10% |
| Test Cancellations | 215 | 194 | -9.77% |
| Investigations | | | |
| Fire | 58 | 63 | +8.62% |
| Construction | 2 | 1 | -50% |
| HazMat | 13 | 32 | +146.15% |
| Other | 11 | 6 | -45.45% |
| Arrests | 14 | 9 | -35.71% |
| Fatalities | 0 | 0 | 0 |

Administration and Logistics News

As the year started off all eyes were focused on the on going budget discussions and what impact the FY2014 budget would have on the Fire Department. On February 26, the City Manager released his proposed FY2014 budget. The proposed budget is now under review by the City Council which may modify, add, delete, or completely rewrite the budget. The final budget document will be approved by City Council in May. Until that occurs, Chief Thiel provided staff with a summary of budget proposals that will affect the Fire Department under the current proposal by the City Manager the March "All Hands" meetings with staff.

Under the proposed FY2014 budget:

- Authorized positions remain steady at 290. Highlights follow:
 - The personnel budget is proposed to increase by +\$1.8 million or 5.3 percent above the prior year to address higher costs of employee health plans and increased employer contributions to the Police and Firefighter pension plan. Funding of +\$890,000 is designated for overtime expenditures. To partially offset these increases, a delay of four (4) months is proposed for the hiring of new Medic positions for Station 210 on Eisenhower Avenue.
 - A savings in Firefighter overtime is also proposed by utilizing the new Firefighters hired for Station 210 (Recruit Class 40) to offset minimum staffing overtime while awaiting the opening of Station 210.
 - There will be delay in the scheduled opening of Station 210 from the original December 2013/January 2014 timeframe to a revised April/May 2014 date.
 - An increase in base pay is proposed

for Firefighters, Medics, and Fire Marshals to align with comparable Metro DC market rates. Implementation of new career ladders for Firefighters, Medics, and Fire Marshals is proposed to occur in FY 2015. These two proposals result from the recommendations of the Public Safety Work Group made up of representatives from City HR, AFD administration, and all of our employee groups.

- The FY 2014 budget includes an additional funds for vehicles that were approved as part of our 10-year fleet replacement plan. The FY 2014 purchases will include three (3) engines (for a rotational "reserve"), two (2) medic units (front-line units) and two (2) duty vehicles. This is in addition to the nine (9) engines already arriving, one (1) new tower ladder under construction, four (4) medic units being built, 15 duty vehicles on order, and the new tiller truck recently placed in-service at Station 204.
- The proposed FY 2014 – 2023 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) budget includes \$51.4 million for AFD facilities, including:
 - \$4.0 million for maintenance of Fire Department facilities,
 - \$200,000 for the demolition of the smokestack adjacent to our Burn Building, and
 - \$47.2 million for replacement of Stations 203, 205, 206, and 207.
- New to the AFD's facilities plan is the recognition of the need for larger sites for replacement Stations 205 and 207. Funding is

See ADMIN, PAGE 8, COL. 1

Remembering, From Page 1

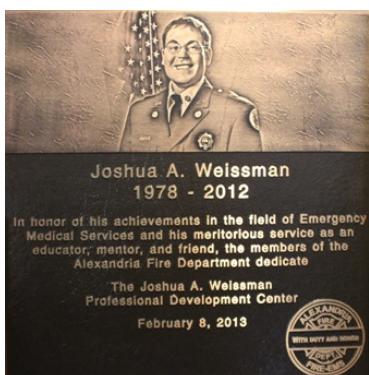
rooms that at one time housed the Incident Management Team (IMT) that worked tirelessly for more than a week after Josh died in the line of duty, planning, coordinating and deploying plans for his visitation, funeral and back fills from area fire departments.

During the ceremony Mayor William D. Euille remembered Weissman for his dedication to the community he served as well as for the dedicated employee he was. Fire Chief Adam Thiel spoke saying "We are here because this is a place that Josh spent a lot of time in and this place meant a lot to him"

The Department renamed the center which is now known as the Joshua A. Weissman Professional Development Center. The Center's new name proudly appears in the front hallway of the facility. A plaque bearing Weissman's likeness will be mounted on the front of the building once City Council formally dedicates the Professional Development Center's wing in the name of Joshua Weissman.

Josh's friend, Jason Allen, stated "It's a wonderful dedication to Josh because he was always training; always revamping training manuals; and really wanting to make sure that everyone in the field had everything they needed to do the job."

The event was a fitting tribute to an individual that sacrificed much of himself in life for his profession in order to better prepare others to do their very best every day. 🚒



Admin, From Page 7.

proposed for land purchases, if existing City-owned sites are unavailable.

- An additional \$1.3 million is proposed for the Public Safety Center for enhanced heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems, and back-up power. This funding will benefit the soon-to-be constructed Emergency Operations Center and associated work areas for the Office of Emergency Management.
- Funding is proposed for the new CAD system. An additional +\$400,000 is proposed for new portable radios on top of the \$420,000 appropriated in FY 2013; a third and final appropriation of approximately \$400,000 will be required in FY 2015 to complete this project.

The City Manager has also proposed +\$2.8 million to replace all AFD Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA). Existing SCBA will be replaced with units that are compliant with the latest (2013) edition of the NFPA standard.

As mentioned earlier, this is the City Manager's proposed budget items affecting the Fire Department. City Council is now reviewing the budget and may make their own changes and adjustments to the budget, including those affecting the Department before voting on a final budget in May.

Retirements

At the end of 2012 and in the first quarter of 2013 the Department bid farewell to the following employees who entered retirement:

Continued on Page 9.

Admin, From Page 8.

Battalion Chief Mike Brown who retired after 34 years of service with the City.

Firefighter Gary Harrell who retired from the Department after 7 years with the City.

Battalion Chief John North who retired after 29 years of service with the City.

Document Control

Over the past quarter Document Control has been busy distributing a number of General Orders, Information Bulletins and other important documents. Several documents of note were released in the last quarter:

GO 13-008 Procedure for Requesting Audio Tapes of Incidents—*Establishes the procedures for obtaining recorded radio and telephone transmissions from DEC.*

GO 13-009 Procedures for using updating CAD Information—*Establishes the procedures for updating Caution Information and Special Needs Patients in CAD.*

GO13-010 Interdepartmental Communications between AFD and DEC—*Establishes the procedures for transfer of information between employees of AFD and DEC.*

GO 13-011 CAD Status Codes for Apparatus—*Outlines the procedures and responsibilities for updating unit status by DEC or AFD.*

GO13-013 Grooming Standards—*Establishes grooming standards for field personnel.*

GO 13-021 Response Changes—*Outlines response changes for Box Alarms.*

These documents and more are available on AlexNet under Document Control on the Fire Department's webpage. 🚒

Congratulations***To Our 2012******Valor Award Recipients***

The Alexandria Chamber of Commerce has announced the following Fire Department Members will receive awards at the 2013 Valor Awards ceremony on June 13, 2013 for acts of valor during 2012.

The 2012 Awardees are:

Gold Medal (Awarded posthumously)

Medic II Joshua Weissman

Silver Medal

Lieutenant David Bogoz

EMS Supervisor Kelsea Bonkowski

Medic II Charlie Cura

Medic II Robert Honaker

Firefighter Chizoba Okoli

Firefighter Kenneth Salfelder

Firefighter Stuart Smothers

Congratulations to all our awardees for going above and beyond the call of duty. 🚒

Awards and Recognition

Plaque Dedication at Station 206



On February 6 members of the department and family members gathered at Fire Station 206 for a plaque dedication for two departed members.



Medic Joshua Weissman and Firefighter Phillip S. Harrington were honored

by members of Station 206 with the dedication of two memorial plaques.

Joshua Weissman died in the line of duty on February 8, 2012. He was assigned to Station 206.



Phillip "Shirl" Harrington was a 29 year veteran of the Alexan-

dria Fire Department, serving as a firefighter and also as a dispatcher during his career with the department. Prior to joining the Alexandria Fire Department, FF Harrington served in the US Army during World War II. FF Harrington's twin brother Melvin also worked for the Alexandria Fire Department during the same time period. After he retired, Shirl became a life-long friend of Station 206. Harrington passed away

on July 12, 2012.

The plaque hangs in the apparatus bay of Station 206 which also contains a memorial plaque dedicated to Shirl's twin brother, Melvin, who predeceased him.



James E. Shortt Award

On March 14, Fiscal Officer Matt Bosse was awarded the James E. Shortt award by the Alexandria Jaycees. The Jaycees present four awards to City staff including one to each of the three public safety agencies. Matt received his award for his tireless contributions to the Fire Department, especially during major City incidents. His ability to remain calm; ensure resources are allocated in a timely manner, especially during emergencies; and his oversight of proper protocols for purchasing and requisitioning resources earned him recognition by the Department. Congratulations Matt. 🚒



Department members gather to congratulate Matt Bosse on his receipt of the James E. Shortt Award. Pictured (l to r) Chris Kunkle, Jeff Merryman, Matt Bosse, Pat Evans, Andrew Snead, Byron Andrews, James Lynch, Rachel Sawyer, George November.

Hot Shots

Here are a few
photos of activities
over the past
several months



Above and Left: Pump drills at Cameron Station. March 2013



Drag and Carry Drill at Station 208.



Left: Early morning business fire in the 900 block of Prince Street. February, 2013.



Tiller driver training on Stovall Street. March 2013.



Mutual Aid medical call at 2800 Shirlington Road. Truck 203 and Medic 109. March 2013.



Right: Outside natural gas leak—Engine and Hazmat 209 at Tridelphia Way. March 2013.



Above: 2 Alarm fire in mid-rise apartment building in the 300 block of Wythe Street. March 2013.

Spring 2013 Run Statistics (January through March)

| | Unit | EMS | SUP | TOTAL | Current Yr. | Previous Yr |
|------------------|------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|
| Station 201 | E201 | 141 | 169 | 310 | 310 | 1336 |
| Station 202 | M202 | 413 | 95 | 508 | 508 | 2177 |
| | U202 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 32 |
| Total | | 414 | 96 | 510 | 510 | 2209 |
| Station 203 | E203 | 191 | 140 | 331 | 331 | 1255 |
| | T203 | 33 | 201 | 234 | 234 | 478 |
| Total | | 224 | 341 | 565 | 565 | 1733 |
| Station 204 | E204 | 158 | 156 | 314 | 314 | 1422 |
| | T204 | 34 | 275 | 309 | 309 | 1393 |
| Total | | 192 | 431 | 623 | 623 | 2815 |
| Station 205 | E205 | 208 | 269 | 477 | 477 | 1965 |
| | M205 | 527 | 119 | 646 | 646 | 2737 |
| Total | | 735 | 388 | 1123 | 1123 | 4702 |
| Station 206 | E206 | 301 | 291 | 592 | 592 | 2423 |
| | M206 | 517 | 169 | 686 | 686 | 2870 |
| | R206 | 35 | 73 | 108 | 108 | 820 |
| Total | | 853 | 533 | 1386 | 1386 | 6113 |
| Station 207 | E207 | 261 | 204 | 465 | 465 | 1950 |
| | M207 | 478 | 91 | 569 | 569 | 2386 |
| Total | | 739 | 295 | 1034 | 1034 | 4336 |
| Station 208 | E208 | 336 | 324 | 660 | 660 | 2870 |
| | M208 | 519 | 138 | 657 | 657 | 2818 |
| | T208 | 52 | 302 | 354 | 354 | 1656 |
| Total | | 907 | 764 | 1671 | 1671 | 7344 |
| Station 209 | E209 | 152 | 170 | 322 | 322 | 1349 |
| | H209 | 0 | 21 | 21 | 21 | 72 |
| | S209 | 0 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 191 |
| Total | | 152 | 195 | 347 | 347 | 1612 |
| Peak Time Medics | M213 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 4 | 48 |
| | M214 | 157 | 33 | 190 | 190 | 850 |
| Total | | 159 | 35 | 194 | 194 | 898 |
| Station Totals | | 4516 | 3247 | 7763 | 7763 | 33098 |

Alexandria Fire Department

900 Second Street

Alexandria, Virginia 22314

Mail to: